

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

Name: Maebe A. Girl

Phone Number:

Email: maebe.a.girl@silverlakenc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/03/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 08/04/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1482

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council strongly opposes the vacation of the above referenced segment of Maltman Avenue (see pictures attached in Appendix A). This segment of the public right-of-way is a valued walkable access to and from the hills above Sunset, a rare element of public greenspace, and a unique example of how not every street in Los Angeles must be car-centered. 7,740 square feet of public land should not be handed over to private interests. Doing so would result in the vacation applicant gaining control of the entirety of the street as the properties abutting on both sides are all owned by the applicant.



Serving the Silver Lake Community Since 2003

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Co-Chairs	Alexandra Aurisch Seth Gottesdiener
Vice Chair	Daniel Weidlein
Treasurer	Maebe A. Girl
Secretary	Kevin Rutkowski

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

[Opposing] of Council File [[20-1482](#)]

(Maltman Avenue / Crestmont Avenue / Effie Street / Street Vacation)

Dear Councilmembers:

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council strongly opposes the vacation of the above referenced segment of Maltman Avenue (see pictures attached in Appendix A). This segment of the public right-of-way is a valued walkable access to and from the hills above Sunset, a rare element of public greenspace, and a unique example of how not every street in Los Angeles must be car-centered. **7,740 square feet of public land should not be handed over to private interests.** Doing so would result in the vacation applicant gaining control of the entirety of the street as the properties abutting on both sides are all owned by the applicant.

If properly maintained by the city, it can become a model for how spaces formally dedicated to cars can be converted to functions of greater value. Spaces such as these that were formally dedicated and existed for vehicular access can become informal community spaces, areas for play and exploration, or wildlife enhancement. All things sorely lacking on our car-centric and dangerous streets currently. In its current condition, the street provides a wildlife habitat for a variety of birds, pollinators, and local flora.

Without cars, spaces such as these should be viewed by the city council as the community does. Not primarily as a vehicle pass through but as an valued component of the public landscape.

Rather than vacate the parcel to private development interests, it should be studied for how it might be enhanced. The SLNC Board commits to coordinating with your office, LADOT, and/or a suitably qualified non-profit organization that might envision and plan for safety and access improvements and management of the green space. We envision a space that has ever greater community value and hope that you will deny this vacation and allow for greater rather than less greenspace access for all. If the LADOT cannot maintain it, turn it over to the Recreation & Parks Department or other suitable agency.

In addition, this vacation should not be exempt from CEQA review. Under the city's [ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES \(CF: 02-1507\)](#), it does not qualify for exemption. If the exemption was justified based on Class 5. "Alterations in Land Use Limitations", it should be noted that that section of the guidelines is not applicable as [the slope exceeds 20%](#). No other exemption under city guidelines appears to be applicable.

We oppose any ceding of potential greenspace to private development interests. We should preserve this open space for all rather than hand it over only to see it closed forever.

Sincerely,

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

PRESENTED BY: Andrew Werner/Eric Brightwell/Kristen Egermeier

SECONDED BY: Alexandra Aurisch

YES: 17 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0 INELIGIBLE: 0

ON THIS DATE: August 3rd, 2022

APPENDIX A

Photos of Maltman Avenue Between Crestmont Avenue and Effie Street





